

1 GORDON H. DEPAOLI  
2 Nevada State Bar 00195  
3 DALE E. FERGUSON  
4 Nevada State Bar 04986  
5 WOODBURN AND WEDGE  
6 6100 Neil Road, Suite 500  
7 Post Office Box 2311  
8 Reno, Nevada 89511  
9 Telephone: (775) 688-3000

10  
11 Attorneys for Defendant,  
12 WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

13 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

14 FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

15 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) In Equity No. C-125-ECR  
16 Plaintiff, ) Subfile No. C-125-B  
17 WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE, )  
18 Plaintiff-Intervenor, ) **WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION**  
19 ) **DISTRICT'S REPLY TO RESPONSE**  
20 ) **OF CIRCLE BAR N RANCH ET AL .**  
v. ) **RE: DECEMBER 1, 2004 STATUS**  
21 ) **CONFERENCE**  
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29 On or about November 23, 2004, Circle Bar N Ranch, et al. filed their *Response to*  
30 *United States of America and Walker River Paiute Tribe's List of Proposed Agenda Items for*  
31 *December 1, 2004 Status Conference* (the "Response"). The Response argues that at the  
32 October 1, 2004, status conference, the Court established a motion schedule to address the  
33 continuation of the mediation and extension of the stay currently in place in the C-125-B and  
34 C-125-C subfiles. The Response also argues that the Court should not consider continuation of  
35 the mediation or extension of the stay without briefing by the parties and oral argument on the

1 issue. The Walker River Irrigation District (the “District”) offers the following reply to the  
2 Response.

3 **I. THE COURT DID NOT ESTABLISH A BRIEFING SCHEDULE ON THE  
4 ISSUES OF CONTINUING THE MEDIATION PROCESS AND EXTENDING  
5 THE STAY AT THE OCTOBER 1, 2004 STATUS CONFERENCE**

6 The Response argues that, at the October 1, 2004 status conference, the Court  
7 established a briefing schedule that required the mediating parties to file a motion by no later  
8 than November 1, 2004, addressing the issues of continuing the mediation process and  
9 extending the stay. At the October 1, 2004 status conference, the Court scheduled the next  
10 status conference for December 1, 2004. The Court also directed the parties to notify it two  
11 weeks in advance of any issues that needed to be discussed at the December status conference.  
12 Finally, it ordered the mediation parties to serve any request for the extension of the stay on  
13 counsel for the Landolts and Circle Bar N Ranch et al.<sup>1</sup> The Court did not, however, establish a  
14 briefing schedule as argued in the Response.<sup>2</sup>

15 On November 17, 2004, the United States, State of Nevada, State of California, Walker  
16 River Paiute Tribe, Walker River Irrigation District, Mono County, California, Lyon County,  
17 Nevada, Mineral County, Nevada, and the Walker Lake Working Group (the “Mediating  
18 Parties”) filed their *Joint Report of Mediating Parties* (the “Report”). The Report stated that  
19 the Mediating Parties would file a report with the Court by no later than December 17, 2004,  
20 stating their respective positions as to whether the mediation would continue and whether an  
21 extension of the stay would be requested. The Joint Report did not request that the stay be  
22 extended.

23 On or about November 16, 2004, the United States and Walker River Paiute Tribe filed

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>1</sup> The District believes there is an important distinction between the interest the Court  
26 has in continuing the stay of litigation and its interest in whether the Mediating Parties choose  
to mediate with or without a stay of the litigation. The District assumes that at an appropriate  
time the issue before the Court will involve only the stay of litigation.

27 <sup>2</sup> The October 1, 2004 minute order entered by the Court stated: “A status report shall  
28 be submitted to the Court two weeks in advance of the status conference to identify the issues  
that need to be discussed.”

1 their *List of Proposed Agenda Items for December 1, 2004, Status Conference* (the “List”). The  
2 List proposed that one of the agenda items for the December status conference be “[the]  
3 ongoing Mediation effort and the likelihood of extension.” It did not propose that the Court  
4 decide the issue of extending the stay because the Mediating Parties would not report to the  
5 Court on that issue until December 17, 2004.

6 **II. CIRCLE BAR N ET AL.’S REQUEST FOR BRIEFING AND ORAL  
7 ARGUMENT ON ISSUES OF CONTINUING THE MEDIATION  
8 AND EXTENDING THE STAY**

9 Currently, there has been no request by the Mediating Parties to extend the stay.  
10 Therefore, the request made in the Response to establish a briefing schedule and oral argument  
11 date to address that issue is premature, as is the *Opposition to Extension of Mediation Process*  
12 (the “Mediation Opposition”) filed by the Landolts on or about November 16, 2004. The  
13 District has no objection, however, to discussing the need for implementing a briefing schedule  
14 and selecting an oral argument date if and when the Mediating Parties actually do request an  
15 extension of the stay. Any such schedule and date should incorporate the December 17, 2004  
16 date by which the Mediating Parties are obligated to file their report(s) with the Court  
17 addressing that issue. It should also incorporate dates for responses and replies to be filed in  
18 connection with the Mediation Opposition. Responses to that opposition are currently due on or  
before December 6, 2004.

19 Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2004.

20 WOODBURN AND WEDGE  
21 6100 Neil Road, Suite 500  
22 Post Office Box 2311  
Reno, Nevada 89511

23 By: Dale E. Ferguson

24 GORDON H. DEPAOLI  
Nevada State Bar 00195  
DALE E. FERGUSON  
Nevada State Bar 04986

25  
26  
27 Attorneys for WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION  
28 DISTRICT

## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I am an employee of Woodburn and Wedge and that on this date, I deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing ***WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S REPLY TO RESPONSE OF CIRCLE BAR N RANCH ET AL. RE: DECEMBER 1, 2004 STATUS CONFERENCE*** in an envelope addressed to:

(Also by email and facsimile where indicated)

Greg Addington  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
100 West Liberty Street, #600  
Reno, NV 89509

William W. Quinn  
Office of the Field Solicitor  
Department of the Interior  
401 West Washington Street, SPC 44  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

George Benesch  
P.O. Box 3498  
Reno, NV 89505

Robert L. Hunter  
Western Nevada Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1677 Hot Springs Road  
Carson City, NV 89706

Kenneth Spooner  
General Manager  
Walker River Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 820  
Yerington, NV 89447

Hugh Ricci, P.E.  
Division of Water Resources  
State of Nevada  
123 West Nye Lane  
Carson City, NV 89710

Garry Stone  
United States District Court Water Master  
290 South Arlington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Reno, NV 89501

Alice E. Walker / Scott McElroy  
Greene, Meyer & McElroy  
1007 Pearl Street, Suite 220  
Boulder, CO 80302  
[awalker@greenelawyer.com](mailto:awalker@greenelawyer.com)  
[smcelroy@greenelawyer.com](mailto:smcelroy@greenelawyer.com)  
Fax: (303) 444-3490

**John Kramer  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Alan Biaggi  
Dir. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
State of Nevada  
123 W. Nye Lane  
Carson City, NV 89706

Bill Lockyer / Michael W. Neville  
California Attorney General's Office  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
Suite 11000  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3664

Ross E. de Lipkau  
Marshall, Hill, Cassas & de Lipkau  
P.O. Box 2790  
Reno, NV 89505

1 Susan Schneider  
2 Indian Resources Section  
U.S. Department of Justice  
3 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 945, North Tower  
Denver, CO 80202  
susan.schneider@usdoj.gov  
5 Fax: (303) 312-7379

6 Mary Hackenbracht  
7 Deputy Attorney General  
State of California  
8 1515 Clay Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-1413

9  
10 James Shaw  
Water Master  
11 U.S. Board of Water Commissioners  
P.O. Box 853  
12 Yerington, NV 89447

13 Linda Bowman  
540 Hammill Lane  
14 Reno, NV 89511

15 Tim Glidden  
16 U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of the  
Secretary, Div. Of Indian Affairs  
17 1849 C St. N.W.  
Mail Stop 6456  
18 Washington, D.C. 20240

19 Marshall S. Rudolph, Mono County Counsel  
20 Stacy Simon, Deputy County Counsel  
Mono County  
21 P. O. Box 2415  
22 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546-2415

23 Steve Rye  
Chief Deputy District Attorney  
24 Lyon County  
31 S. Main St.  
25 Yerington, NV 89447

26 Cheri Emm-Smith  
Mineral County District Attorney  
27 P. O. Box 1210  
28 Hawthorne, NV 89415

Marta Adams  
Deputy Attorney General  
State of Nevada  
100 North Carson street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Treva J. Hearne  
Hager & Hearne  
910 E. Parr Blvd., Ste. 8  
Reno, NV 89509

David L. Negri  
United States Department of Justice  
Environment and Natural Resources Div.  
161 E. Mallard Dr., Suite A  
Boise, ID 83706

Kelly Chase, Esq.  
P.O. Box 2800  
Minden, NV 89423

Scott H. Schackelton  
Silverado, Inc.  
4160 Long Knife Rd.  
Reno, NV 89509

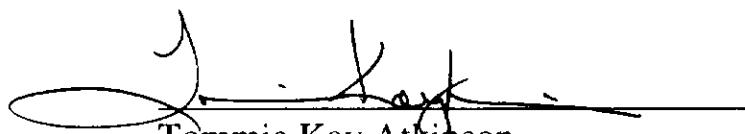
Erin K.L. Mahaney  
Office of Chief Counsel  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I St., 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Simeon Herskovits  
Western Environmental Law Center  
P. O. Box 1507  
Taos, NM 87571

William E. Schaeffer  
P. O. Box 936  
Battle Mountain, NV 89820  
Lander\_lawyer@yahoo.com  
Fax: (775) 635-3229

1 Laura A. Schroeder  
2 P. O. Box 12527  
3 Portland, Oregon 97212-0527  
counsel@water-law.com  
4 Fax: (503) 281-4600

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6 Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2004.  
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Tommie Kay Atkinson